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# Dairy Digest

Food & Dairy Division

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## Bovine Tuberculosis

### A Program Update

by Don Koivisto, director

The State of Michigan, in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), has been successfully working to eradicate bovine Tuberculosis (TB) from Michigan since it was confirmed in free-ranging white-tailed deer in 1994. The livestock industry participates in surveillance testing which helps the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) reaffirm the disease has not spread via cattle movement from northern Lower Michigan.

A surveillance, epidemiology, animal identification, and movement tracking system has been implemented to prevent the spread of this disease between livestock herds. The next step is to prevent the spread of disease between cattle and wildlife. Reducing the risks of bovine TB, transmitted between livestock and deer, will advance the program.

Be assured that one of MDA's top priorities is to eradicate this disease, advance the areas of the Lower Peninsula to bovine TB-free status, and to keep TB-free status in the Upper Peninsula. We remain fully committed to that goal.

I clearly understand the hardship bovine TB has caused many producers, and I feel strong compassion for each of you as we struggle to eradicate this disease. Michigan has entered a critical phase in the disease eradication program, and your support is paramount to its success.

## Dairy Processing Plant Guidelines

Because of the increased interest in value added products, many of Michigan's residents are looking to provide locally produced dairy products. MDA has developed guidelines for starting a dairy processing plant which provide the legal requirements as well as helpful information about dairy plant construction,



labeling, and marketing opportunities. A list of additional resources is also provided. These guidelines, **Summary of Requirements for Michigan Dairy Processing Plants**, are available online by visiting MDA's website at [www.michigan.gov/mda-dairy](http://www.michigan.gov/mda-dairy).

## News for Those Who Move the Milk

### Hauler Identification on Weight Slips

Recent Michigan Grade A surveys have shown about half of the farm weight slips do not have hauler/sampler names and ID numbers as required by the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO). This information is used to determine whether or not the hauler/samplers picking up milk from a farm are properly licensed and inspected. Initials alone do not provide enough information. When hauler/sampler names and ID numbers cannot be found on survey, this results in a debit of the sampling portion of the survey.

The name recorded on the weight slip should be the same as the one found on the hauler/sampler's license – not a nickname. The same information is needed if a ledger is used as the milk weight record left on the farm.

Inspectors will be debiting Item 23j on routine hauler/sampler inspections if the name and ID number of the hauler/sampler is not being recorded on the weight slips or ledger left on the farm.

### What You Need to Know About Back Hauling in Milk Tankers

Milk haulers are facing some of the highest fuel costs in history. In many cases, it costs a dollar per mile or more to run semi-tankers on Michigan roads to pick up milk from dairy farms. These high fuel prices have milk haulers scrambling to find ways – such as back hauling – to offset costs. Here is what you need to know about back hauling in milk tankers:

Michigan's Grade A Milk Law states:

*"A milk tank truck may be used to haul potable water, or other wholesome liquid food products, if the milk contact surfaces are properly cleaned and sanitized*

*prior to picking up raw milk. Certain pasteurized milk products, as specified in the pasteurized milk ordinance, must be transported in milk tank trucks dedicated to hauling pasteurized products.”*

What does this mean?

Back hauling of raw milk after leaving the dairy plant is only permitted if you can wash and sanitize your tank truck, pump, and hoses at a licensed wash facility or an MDA approved facility. Potable water, or other wholesome liquid food products, may be hauled if the milk contact surfaces are washed at a licensed wash facility after hauling these products before raw milk can be picked up.

Pasteurized products may only be hauled in dedicated tankers from dairy plant to dairy plant. MDA requires the plant to have these tankers identified and a standard operating procedure (SOP) in place noting which tankers are approved for hauling pasteurized dairy products and how they are washed and sanitized.

What happens if MDA hears that I am back hauling?

In one case, MDA was notified of a complaint received by the Michigan State Police regarding back hauling of non-food grade products in milk tankers. Complaints like these become top priority for investigation by MDA to ensure the safety of dairy products.

If MDA becomes aware of any improper back hauling practices, the department will investigate and follow up with appropriate enforcement action. Based on the findings, MDA may levy an administrative fine to the milk transportation company of up to \$1,000 *per* violation. If the material back hauled in the tanker is found to have contaminated any milk, the milk and dairy products produced from it may be subject to a recall. Dairy plants may decide to hold the milk transportation company liable for the recalled product and any costs or loss involved. In addition, a milk transportation company may be charged with a criminal violation depending on the findings of the investigation.

If you have questions, please contact your MDA inspector or a regional office prior to back hauling products other than milk.

## 2007 Enforcement and Investigations

Enforcement Letters .....	495
Informal Hearings/Compliance Reviews .....	30
Drug Residue Fines collected by MDA .....	\$6,000
Prosecutions .....	0
Seizures .....	1
Total Permit Suspensions .....	159
Total Pounds of Contaminated Milk Disposed.....	2,304,779 (\$440,904)

## Dairy Section Staffing Update

The Dairy Section has experienced a number of staffing changes in the last year.

Gordon Robinson has been promoted to the position of Dairy West Supervisor. The former supervisor, Terry Philibeck, left MDA in September 2007 to assume the position of Dairy Division Director with the Indiana State Board of Animal Health.

Lindsey Giles-Austin has been hired as a dairy field inspector to fill Gordon Robinson's vacant field position. Lindsey is a Michigan State University graduate who was born and raised on a farm in Gratiot County. She will be working in Montcalm County and the surrounding area.

Dennis Hunt has been promoted to the Grade A Survey Officer position. He replaces Jon Lauer, who retired early this year.

John Rice has been hired as a dairy field inspector to fill Dennis Hunt's vacant field position. John is a Ferris State University graduate who was born and raised on a farm in Branch County. He will be working in Oakland and Wayne counties and the surrounding area.

William DeFeyter has been promoted to the Laboratory Evaluation Officer position. He replaces Douglas McDougal, who retired early this year.

For the convenience of dairy farmers and those having dairy questions, Michigan is divided into two regions.

### Dairy Regional Offices



#### West Region Gordon Robinson Supervisor

Grand Rapids Regional Office  
Dairy Section  
State Office Building, Unit  
350 Ottawa NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503-2348  
Phone: (616) 356-0600  
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#### East Region Elizabeth Hunt Supervisor

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Questions may also be directed to:  
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